

How can I help my child make friends?

Children often times have difficulty making friends or getting along with others. Sometimes these issues resolve themselves without help, but when the problem continues to persist, children may need assistance from their caretakers. Parents can look to their child's teacher in pinpointing what may be impeding the formation of friendships. Your child's teacher can provide valuable information about how your child interacts with others and whether their behavior is of normal development for their chronological age. Parents are encouraged to take an active role in observing their child's behavior to identify potential actions that may inhibit friendships such as aggressiveness, shyness, and a lack of sharing and cooperation. It's recommended that parents encourage their child to talk about who they like to play with, how they get along, and what they like to do together in an attempt to convey interest and identify problem areas.

When addressing problematic behavior, parents should educate their child about the positives of sharing, following rules, and being courteous to others. Sometimes teachers are able to organize group activities within the classroom that pair children with other children that have the same temperament and attitude. In addition, parents can enroll their children in activities that facilitate group interaction and team work. If your child continues to lack social skills, professional help is recommended. Friendships are an important part of your child's development and the support that parents offer in this area proves to be an essential part of their development.